

President's Message.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

In resuming your labors in the service of the people, it is a subject of congratulation that there has been no period in our past history when all the elements of national prosperity have been so fully developed. Since the first settlement of this country, as well as the country's general good health has prevailed; abundance has crowned the toil of the husbandman; and labor in all its branches is receiving an ample reward, while education, science, and the arts are rapidly enlarging the means of social happiness. The progress of our country in her career of greatness, not only in the vast extension of her territorial limits, and the rapid increase of her population, but in resources and wealth, and in the happy condition of her people, is without example in the history of nations.

As the wisdom, strength, and beneficence of our free institutions are unfolded every day, and fresh motives to contentment, and fresh incentives to patriots.

Our abundant acknowledgments are due to the gracious favor of all gods, for the numerous blessings which our beloved country enjoys.

It is a source of high satisfaction to know that the relations of the United States with all other nations, with a single exception, are of the most amicable character. Sincerely attached to the policy of peace, early adopted and steadily pursued by this government, I have anxiously desired to cultivate and cherish friendship and commerce with every foreign power. The spirit and habits of the American people are favorable to the maintenance of such international harmony.

In adhering to this wise policy, a preliminary and paramount duty obviously consists in the protection of our national interests from encroachment or sacrifice, and our national honor from reproach. These must be maintained at any hazard. They admit of no compromise or neglect, and must be scrupulously and constantly guarded.

In their vigilant vindication, collision and conflict with foreign Powers may become inevitable. Such has been our scrupulous adherence to the dictates of justice, in all our foreign intercourse, that, though steadily and rapidly advancing in prosperity and power, we have given no just cause of complaint to any nation, and have enjoyed the blessings of peace for more than thirty years. From a policy so sacred to humanity, and so salutary in its effects upon our domestic system, it should never be induced voluntarily to depart.

The existing war with Mexico was neither desired nor provoked by the United States. On the contrary, all honorable means were resorted to to avert it. After years of endurance of aggravated and unredressed wrongs on our part, Mexico, in violation of solemn treaty stipulations, and every principle of justice, recognized by civilized nations, commenced hostilities; and thus by her own act, forced the war upon us. Long before the advance of our army to the left bank of the Rio Grande, we had ample cause of war against Mexico; and had the United States resorted to this extremity, we might have appealed to the whole civilized world for the justice of our cause.

I deem it to be my duty to present to you, on the present occasion, a condensed review of the injuries we had sustained, of the causes which led to the war, and of its progress since its commencement. This is rendered the more necessary because of the misapprehensions which have to some extent prevailed, and which have been represented as unjust and unnecessary, and as one of aggression on our part upon a weak and injured enemy. Such erroneous views, though entertained by but few, have been widely and extensively circulated not only at home, but have been spread throughout Mexico and the whole world. A more effectual measure to enlighten and to avert the war than to advocate and adhere to the cause, and thus give them "aid and comfort."

It is a source of national pride and exultation, that the great body of our people have thrown no such obstacles in the way of the government in prosecuting the war successfully, and have been ready to vindicate their country's honor and interests at any sacrifice. The alacrity and promptness with which our volunteer forces rushed to the field on their country's call, prove not only their patriotism, but their deep conviction that our cause was just.

The wrongs which we have suffered from Mexico, since she became an independent Power, and the patient endurance with which we have borne them, are without a parallel in the history of modern civilized nations. There is reason to believe that if these wrongs had been resented and resisted in the first instance, the present war might have been avoided. One outcome, however, permitting to pass without animosity, almost another, until at last Mexico seemed to attribute to weakness and indecision on our part a forbearance which was the offspring of magnanimity, and of a sincere desire to preserve friendly relations with a sister republic.

Scarcely had Mexico achieved her independence, which the United States were the first among the nations to acknowledge, when she commenced the violation of our national flag, and the insult which she has ever since pursued. Our citizens engaged in lawful commerce were imprisoned, their vessels seized, and our flag insulted in her ports. If money was wanted, the lawless seizure and confiscation of our merchant vessels and their cargoes was a ready resource; and if to accomplish their purposes it became necessary to imprison our citizens, captives and crews were the usual means resorted to. Mexico in rapid succession, but still there was no change in this system of depredation. The government of the United States made repeated reclamations on behalf of its citizens; but these were answered by the perpetration of new outrages. Promises of redress made by Mexico in the most solemn forms were postponed or evaded. The files and records of the Department contain conclusive proofs of numerous lawless acts perpetrated upon the property and persons of our citizens by Mexico, and of wanton insults to our national flag. The interposition of our government to obtain redress was again and again evaded, under circumstances which no nation ought to disregard.

It was hoped that these outrages would cease, and that Mexico would be restrained by the laws which regulate the conduct of civilized nations in their intercourse with each other after the treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation of the 5th of April, 1821, was concluded between the two republics; but this hope soon proved to be vain. The course of seizure and confiscation of the property of our citizens, and the wanton insult to our national flag, was not only continued, but was carried on with increased violence and audacity.

He declared that war should not be used as a remedy "by just and generous nations, confident in the strength for injuries committed by them, and in the justice of their cause." It has occurred to me, that considering the present embarrassed condition of that country, we should act with both wisdom and moderation, by giving to Mexico one more opportunity to atone for the past, before we take redress into our own hands. To avoid all misconception on the part of Mexico, as well as to protect our own national character from reproach, this opportunity should be given with the avowed design and full preparation to take immediate satisfaction, if it should not be obtained on a repetition of the demand for it. To this end I recommend that an act be passed authorizing reprisals, and the use of the navy of the United States, by the Executive, against Mexico, to enforce them in the event of a refusal by the Mexican government to come to an amicable adjustment of the matters in controversy between us, upon another demand thereof, made from our board on one of our vessels of war on the coast of Mexico.

Committees of both houses of Congress, to which this message of this President was referred, fully sustained the views of the Executive, and the wrongs which we had suffered from Mexico, and recommended that another demand for redress should be made before authorizing war or reprisals. The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, in their report, say: "After such a demand, should prompt justice be refused by the Mexican government, we may appeal to all nations with confidence, and with the assurance that we shall have acted towards a sister republic, but for the necessity which will then compel us to seek redress for our wrongs, either by actual war or by reprisals. The subject will then be presented before Congress, at the commencement of the next session, in a clear and distinct form, and the committee cannot doubt that such measures will be immediately adopted, as may be necessary to vindicate the honor of the country, and insure ample reparation to our injured citizens."

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives made a similar recommendation. In their report, they say that they fully concur with the President that such measures will be immediately adopted, as may be necessary to vindicate the honor of the country, and insure ample reparation to our injured citizens.

No difference of opinion upon the subject has been manifested in Congress. At the same time, the Executive and Legislative departments concurred; and yet such has been our forbearance, and desire to preserve peace with Mexico, that the wrongs of which we were complainant, and which gave rise to these solemn proceedings, not only remain unredressed to this day, but additional causes of complaint, and aggravated character, have since been accumulating.

Shortly after these proceedings, a special messenger was despatched to Mexico, to make a final demand for redress; and on the twentieth of July, 1837, the demand was made. The reply of the Mexican government bears date on the twentieth of the same month, and contains assurances "not to delay the moment of that final and equitable adjustment which is to terminate the existing difficulties between the two governments;" that "nothing should be left undone which may contribute to the most speedy and equitable determination of the subjects which have so seriously engaged the attention of the American government; and that the Mexican government would adopt, as the only guides for its conduct, the plainest principles of public right, the sacred obligations imposed by international law, and the religious faith of treaties;" and that "whatever reason and justice may dictate respecting each case will be done." The assurance was further given, that the decision of the Mexican government upon each case of complaint, for which redress had been demanded, should be communicated to the government of the United States by the Mexican minister at Washington.

These solemn assurances, in answer to our demand for redress, were disregarded. By making them, however, Mr. Buren obtained further delay. By his message to Congress of the fifth of December, 1837, states, that "although the larger number" of our demands for redress, and "many of them aggravated cases of personal wrongs, have been now for years before the Mexican government, and some of the causes of national complaint, and those of the most offensive character, remain still unredressed." He further states, "that only within a few days past that any specific communication in answer to our last demand, made five months ago, has been received from the Mexican minister;" and that "for not one of our public complaints has satisfaction been given or offered; that but one of the cases of personal wrong has been favorably considered, and that but four cases of both descriptions, and that four cases formally presented, and earnestly pressed, have as yet been decided upon by the Mexican government." President Van Buren, believing that it would be vain to make any further attempt to obtain redress by the ordinary means within the power of the Executive, communicated this opinion to Congress, in the message referred to, in which he said: "On a careful and deliberate consideration of the state of our relations with Mexico, and of the spirit manifested by the Mexican government, it has become my painful duty to return the subject as it now stands, to Congress, to whom it belongs, to decide upon the time, the mode, and the measure of redress." Had the United States at that time adopted compulsory measures, and taken redress into their own hands, all our difficulties with Mexico would probably have long since been averted. Magnanimity and moderation on our part only had the effect to complicate these difficulties, and render an amicable settlement of them the more embarrassing. Such measures of redress, under similar provocations, committed by one of the powerful nations of Europe, would have been promptly resorted to by the United States, and the preservation of the national character throughout the world, as well as our own self-respect and the protection due to our own citizens, would have rendered such a resort indispensable. The history of no civilized nation in modern times has presented within so brief a period so many wanton attacks upon the honor of its flag, and upon the property and persons of its citizens, as had at that time borne by the United States from the Mexican authorities and people. But Mexico was a sister republic, on the North American continent, occupying a territory contiguous to our own, and was in a feeble and distracted condition; and these considerations, it is presumed, induced Congress to forbear still longer.

Such are the grave causes of complaint on the part of the United States against Mexico—causes which existed long before the annexation of Texas to the American Union; and yet, animated by the love of peace, and a magnanimous moderation, we did not adopt those measures of redress which, under such circumstances, are the justified resort of injured nations.

The annexation of Texas to the U. S. States constituted no just cause of offence to Mexico. The pretext that it did so is wholly inconsistent, and irreconcilable with well authenticated facts connected with the revolution by which Texas became independent of Mexico. Long this may be the more manifest, it may be proper to advert to the causes and to the history of the principal events of that revolution.

Texas constituted a portion of the ancient province of Louisiana, ceded to the United States by France in the year 1803. In the year 1819, the United States, by the Florida treaty, ceded to Spain the part of Louisiana within the present limits of Texas, Mexico, by the revolution which separated

her from Spain, and rendered her an independent nation, succeeded to the rights of the other countries of this territory. In the year 1824, Mexico established a federal constitution, under which the Mexican republic was composed of a number of sovereign States, confederated to form a federal Union similar to our own. These States had their own Executive, legislative, and judiciary, and for all except Federal purposes, they were independent of each other, and that of the other States, as Pennsylvania or Virginia under our constitution. Texas and Coahuila united and formed one of these Mexican States. The State constitution which they adopted, and which was approved by the Mexican confederacy, asserted that they were "free and independent of every other power and dominion whatsoever," and proclaimed the great principle of human liberty, that "the sovereignty in the general mass of the individuals who compose it." To the government under this constitution, as well as that under the federal constitution, the people of Texas owed allegiance.

Emigrants from foreign countries, including the United States, were invited by the colonization laws of the State and of the federal government to settle in Texas. Advantageous terms were offered to induce them to leave their own country and become Mexican citizens. This invitation was accepted by many of our citizens, in the full faith that in their new home they would be governed by laws enacted by representatives elected by themselves, and that their lives, liberty, and property would be protected by constitutional guarantees similar to those which existed in the republic they had left. Under a government thus organized they continued until the year 1835, when a military revolution broke out in the city of Mexico, which entirely subverted the federal and State constitutions, and placed a military dictator at the head of the government.

By a sweeping decree of a Congress subservient to the will of the dictator, the several State constitutions were abolished, and the States themselves converted into mere departments of the Central Government. The people of Texas were unwilling to submit to this usurpation. Resistant to the new order of things, they declared their independence, and placed at the head of their government a man who was fully conscious of his duty. Texas was fully conscious of her allegiance to the Central Government of Mexico from the moment that government had abolished her State constitution, and in its place substituted an arbitrary and despotic Central Government.

Such were the principal causes of the Texan revolution. The people of Texas at once declared their independence, and placed at the head of their government a man who was fully conscious of his duty. In the midst of these important and exciting events, however, they did not omit to place their liberties upon a secure and permanent foundation. They elected members to a convention, who, in the month of March, 1846, issued a formal declaration that their "political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended, and that the people of Texas do now constitute a free, sovereign, and independent republic, and are fully invested with all the rights and attributes which properly belong to independent nations." They also adopted for their government a liberal republican constitution. About the same time, Santa Anna, the dictator of Mexico, invaded Texas with a numerous army for the purpose of subduing her people, and enforcing obedience to his arbitrary and despotic government. On the twenty-first of April, 1836, he was met by the Texan citizen soldiers, and on that day was achieved by them the memorable victory of San Jacinto, by which they conquered their independence. Considering the numbers engaged on the Texan side, history will not record a more brilliant achievement. Santa Anna himself was among the captives.

In the month of May, 1836, Santa Anna acknowledged, by a treaty with the Texan authorities, in the most solemn form, "the full, entire, and perfect independence of the republic of Texas." It is true, that the treaty was signed by him, but it was equally true that he had failed to conquer Texas, and had met with signal defeat; that his authority had been revoked, and that by virtue of this treaty he obtained his personal release. By its hostilities were suspended, and the army which had invaded Texas under his command returned in pursuance of this arrangement, unmolested to Mexico.

From the day that the battle of San Jacinto was fought until the present hour, Mexico has never possessed the power to reconquer Texas. In the language of the Secretary of State of the United States, in a despatch to our minister in Mexico, under date of the eighth of July, 1842, "Mexico may have chosen to consider, and may still choose to consider, the treaty of 1836, but it is equally true that he had failed to conquer Texas, and had met with signal defeat; that his authority had been revoked, and that by virtue of this treaty he obtained his personal release. By its hostilities were suspended, and the army which had invaded Texas under his command returned in pursuance of this arrangement, unmolested to Mexico."

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for the past year has been pronounced in the report of the Postmaster General. The revenue for the year ending on the thirtieth of June last amounted to three million four hundred and eighty-seven thousand one hundred and twenty-nine dollars, which is eight hundred and two thousand six hundred and forty-five dollars and forty-five cents less than that of the preceding year. The payments for that department during the same time amounted to four million eighty-two thousand two hundred and ninety-seven dollars and twenty-seven cents. Of this sum five hundred and ninety-seven thousand and ninety-seven dollars and eighty cents have been drawn from the treasury— the disbursements for the year were two hundred and thirty-one thousand and thirty-one dollars.

four dollars and twenty-five hundred and thirty-four cents, and the other covers less than that of the preceding year. The number of complaints have been thus diminished, the mail facilities have been enlarged by new mail routes of thirty thousand and thirty-nine miles; an increase of transportation of one million seven hundred and thirty-five and one hundred and forty-five miles, and the establishment of one hundred and eighteen new post offices. Contractors, postmasters, and others, engaged in this branch of the service, have performed their duties with energy and faithfulness deserving commendation. I must, however, withhold details connected with the operations of the post office, as they are referred to the report of the Postmaster General; and his suggestions for improving its features are recommended to your favorable consideration. I repeat the opinion expressed in my last report.

ment should be, and the wisdom of this department should be so regulated that the revenues derived from it should be made to equal the expenditures; and it is believed that this may be done by proper modifications of the present laws, as suggested in the report of the Postmaster General, without changing the present rates of postage.

With full reliance upon the wisdom and patriotism of your deliberations, it will be my duty, to leave to my anxious desire, to co-operate with you in every constitutional effort to promote the welfare and maintain the honor of our common country.

JAMES K. POLK.

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 8, 1846.

WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

Friday, December 11, 1846.

The reader can see for himself that the

essage occupies our columns to the exclusion of everything else. We have only space left to ask the indulgence of our readers for the total absence of editorial, news, advertisements and all. But what could we do? We suppose that the reader would rather have the message in full and want all else, than want the message and have the usual dish of news, &c. We have no space to comment upon this noble document, but do most earnestly recommend its careful perusal by all parties—particularly by our Whig friends. We will endeavor to make all straight next week.

WILMINGTON MARKET—Dec. 10.
Naval Stores—Our report of this day week at the market somewhat unsettled, and a still further reduction has taken place since then.

quote for last sales \$2 40, for Turpentine, the market is by no means brisk, as sales are hard to effect at this price this morning, and we may remark that although our quotations are of the current rate this morning, the market is very much depressed. The arrivals, in the meantime, are very limited. *Spirits of Turpentine*—Nothing of moment doing. *Tar*—Arrivals small, and the last sales are reported at \$1 65.

WARRING LIST.

PORT OF WILMINGTON.

ARRIVED.

Dec 3—**brig Uzardo,** Moreen, St Thomas.
—**brig Cardenas,** Gooding, St Pierre, Martinique.
—**G W Davis,**
—**brig Towland,** Adams, Guadaloupe.
—**brig Rupert,** Nickerson, Martinique, to J. Hathway & Son.
—**brig Ellsworth,** Johnson, Trinidad, Port Spain.
—**brig Winthrop,** Lord, Providence, R I, to John Russell.

Warrior, Haven, Turks Island, to G W Davis.
—L P Smith, Brewster, New York, to R W Davis.
—Ehr W R Peters, Lond, N.Y. to E J J Interloh.
—Ehr Laura, Davis, Shalotte, to G W Davis.
—Ehr J H Roth, Hn, N York, to G W Davis.
—Ehr Royal Purple, Price, Lockwood's, to G W Davis.
—Ehr St Helena, Sparks, Boston, to Barry & Co.
—Ehr Mary, Libby, Beverly, Mass., to G W Davis.
—Br Brigha Deborah, Rust, St. Kitts, to G W Davis.
—Ehr Allison, Feres, Antigua, to J Hathaway & J. C. CARRUT.
Dec 4.—Ehr Nancy Pratt, Stevenson, St. Johns, to G W Davis.
—Ehr Lyeomeng, Carr, Matanzas, by J Gamwell.
—Ehr Pacelous, Dead, Havana, by P K Dickinson & Co.
—Ehr Hudson, Kincaid, N York, by G W Davis.
—Ehr Royal Purple, Price, Lockwood's, to G W Davis.

Overseer Wanted.
MAN of sober, industrious habits, experienced in farming, with some knowledge of the horticulture business would find employment by application to the subscriber. N. N. NIXON.
Dec 11, 1846 13-1f

rate desired. If not sold at private sale by 15th December, it will then be offered at public sale to the highest bidder, at 1 o'clock A. M. at Shaw's corner. Terms made easy. For further particulars, apply to the subscriber.

C. D. ELLIS
December 11, 1846 13

**OFFICE OF THE ASS'T Q'R. MASTER,
Assistant Commissary of Subsistence.**
WILKINSON, N. C., 5th Dec, 1846.

PROPOSALS will be received at this office until December 21st, for furnishing the United States with the following supplies for the use of Quarter Master North Carolina Volunteers:—

QUARTERMASTER'S STORES.

Stationary, as follows:—18 reams of Writing paper, four-fourth Gilt, green and blue covers—1000 pieces of Ink paper—1200 Quills—5 bunches of Wafers, (red)—12½ lbs of Gunning Wax, (red), and 50 pieces of office (red.) All the above articles to be of a quality.

—50 cords of good Oak Wood, delivered on wharf or at the volunteer camp near the town.

Subsistence Stores.—10 bushels of Potatoes—100 bushels of Meal—Pork—5400 lbs of Beans—5000 lbs of Fresh Beef, to be delivered in quantities as required twice a week—57 lbs four—12 bushels of Beans, (white)—500 lbs lard—600 lbs of Coffee—12,000 lbs of Sugar—10 gal one of extra Virgin—100 lbs of Syrup of Gum—6 bushels of Salt. All the above articles to be of the best quality.

S. J. FREMONT.

1st Lieut. 3d Art. Am't Cons. and
As't Q'r. Master, U. S. Army.

NUMBER 11, 1948 **13-31**
Chronicle and Commercial copy 1 time, each.

WILL BE SOLD, at the Court-House in
Wilmington, on the 2d Monday Inst, three
res.,—two Boys and one Girl.
(D11-12-15) A. J. MOTT.

NOTICE is hereby given, that application will
be made to the present Legislature on the 2nd day
of all portion of New-Hamover, on the East side
Black River, and stretch the same to the county
improver. **[D11-13-3]**

